

BARRED SOCIALISTS AGAIN ATTACK LUSK

**Reiterate Charge Britain Go
Trade Secrets Seized from
Soviet Bureau Here.**

SUSPENSION PROTESTED

**Young Republican Club and Twelve
Churches Denounce Action
of State Assembly.**

The five Socialists suspended from the New York State Assembly last Wednesday issued a statement yesterday in which they reiterated charges that papers seized in a raid on the Soviet Bureau in this city had been turned over to the British Government. The statement calls the answer by Senator Lusk to these charges "no answer at all but evasive, non-committal and contradictory."

The suspended Socialists say they intended to file these charges before the State Legislature, but were not permitted to do so in view of the vote to suspend them. They take Senator Lusk to task for failing to explain certain features of his investigation of Bolshevism and his trip to England, and again intimate that papers seized in the raid were turned over to Great Britain for the purpose of giving British mercantile interests an advantage over American concerns "which have entered into contracts aggregating \$100,000,000 with the Soviet Government of Russia."

The statement says:

"Senator Lusk denies knowledge that the Sergeant at Arms to the committee [the Lusk committee investigating Bolshevism] received money from any sources other than the funds of the committee. This denial does not explain why the bill for \$1,246 for photostatic copies of documents taken from the Soviet Bureau was not paid to Oliver Lippincott & Co., photostaters, at 230 Broadway, by check in full, but in two installments, one for \$600 by check on the Harriman National Bank and the other in cash to the Sergeant at Arms.

"Nor does the fact that Senator Lusk has no knowledge, to use his own words, of certain things disprove them. In fact it raises the question why he has not and moreover seems unwilling now to ascertain the truth.

"The Senator involves himself further when he says, first, 'that he does not

know for what purpose these (meanin Soviet Bureau Commercial papers) have been used or whether copies of same were sent to England, and in the next breath charges that we made certain statements 'with full knowledge of the falsity.'"

The statement asserts that the British agent who watched the raid here is not associated with Mr. O'Grady, M. P. who was delegated by the British Government to negotiate with Mr. Litvinoff the representative of the Soviet Government at Copenhagen, and that the met Mr. Litvinoff at Copenhagen in such negotiations. It continues:

"Surely it was not the intention of the Legislature, when it created the Lusk Committee, to conduct raids and seize important private documents of great commercial value in pending negotiations between the Russian Soviet Bureau in America and American manufacturers, and permit these documents to be carried away and used by the British Government to help it capture the commerce of the Baltic States and Russia.

"We meant to present this information and these questions in the State Legislature. We were barred. But the fact that we were barred will not deter us from telling the truth to the people."

Party Protests Suspension.

Among many protest meetings held yesterday were two at 110th Street and Fifth Avenue. Nearly 2,000 persons frequently applauded the speakers. Fifteen patrolmen kept order. Edward J. Dutton, former member of the Executive Council of the Socialist Party, commended the stand taken by two Democratic Assemblymen from the Bronx, J. Fairfax McLaughlin and William S. Evans, the only members of the Legislature, besides the Socialists themselves, to vote against the suspension of the five members, as "simply common decency." Socialist Abraham Beckerman of the Sixth district, the second speaker, said:

"I must apologize for still being a member of the Board of Aldermen, but it is not my fault."

He said he felt slighted because he had been allowed to remain a member of the board. August Claessens, one of the suspended Assemblymen, reviewed what had happened at Albany and explained how the oath of office was taken. He said the Socialists, as well as the other members, had participated for three hours in the work of the Assembly, even to electing the Speaker. When Governor Smith's message arrived, he said, all the Republicans walked out of the room, leaving only a few Democrats and the Socialists.

Puts Issue Up to Sweet.

"What the outcome of all this will be," the speaker said, "I don't know. Ask Mr. Sweet. They are bringing about their own finish."

Mr. Claessens compared the Assembly episode with that of the expulsion of Victor L. Berger from the House of Representatives, saying the cases were very dissimilar. He charged that the action against the Socialist Assemblymen was to forestall a resolution of his own which he was about to introduce and which might prove that the Republican Party is also "inimical to the best interests of the country." He said the charges he would have made against politicians for what happened on last election day would have culminated in a scandal.

Mr. Claessens said the reason he was elected by only a majority of 66 was

because 1,400 ballots were stolen from him and that the 66 would have gone the same way if it had not been for "one decent, honest member of the police force."

"If a citizen has no right to cast a ballot there can be no democracy," declared the speaker. "That is a state of anarchy. I say here and now, long live the international social revolution. Every Socialist is in favor of that. We have said it again and again."

Protest by Twelve Churches.

The Fur Workers' Union, with headquarters in Long Island City, yesterday adopted resolutions condemning the action of the Assembly and urging its members to protest against it through mass meetings. The following statement was issued on behalf of twelve ministers of as many churches in New York:

"We, the undersigned ministers of the Christian Church, alarmed at the spread of the spirit of intolerance, and fearful lest our civil liberties, which were the outgrowth of our Christian freedom, be impaired, protest against the recent action of the New York Assembly in refusing to seat five duly elected members of the Legislature on the ground that their party platform is inimical to the public interest. Such a proposed infringement of representative popular government is intolerable. To close the door to a minority who may wish to attempt to compass economic changes by constitutional means, however unwise their aims may appear to the majority, is to invite revolution. Believing heartily that recourse to violent measures must be prevented and that the orderly processes of democratic government afford the safe method of social advance, we call upon the Assembly to rescind its action and admit these duly chosen representatives of their constituencies."

The signers were: George Alexander, First Presbyterian Church; Henry E. Cobb, West End Collegiate Reformed Church; Henry Sloane Coffin, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church; Harry Emerson Fosdick, First Presbyterian Church; Hughell Fosbrooke, Dean, General Theological Seminary; Arthur C. McGiffert, President, Union Theological Seminary; William H. Pott, Archdeacon of New York; Howard C. Robbins, Dean, Cathedral of St. John the Divine; Charles L. Slattery, rector, Grace Protestant Episcopal Church; William Austin Smith, editor of The Churchman; Ralph W. Sockman, Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church; Cornelius Woelfkin, Fifth Avenue Baptist Church.

Protest by Republicans.

The Young Republican Club of New York adopted resolutions made public yesterday, protesting the suspension. The resolutions stated that the members of the club were "emphatically and absolutely opposed to Socialism," and continued:

"It is, however, because of the very fact that our Government is a Government of, by and for a free people expressly guaranteeing freedom of speech and of assembly and full opportunity for the expression of ideas that the practices of those who endeavor to further their aims by means outside the law and by methods involving destruction and violence, are peculiarly abhorrent. This freedom is a sacred heritage and must be maintained.

"Accordingly, because of our love of America, our confidence in its institutions and our faith in the ideals, aims and achievements of the founders of our country, we protest against the recent action of the Assembly of the State of New York in suspending five duly elect-

ed Socialist members as an undemocratic and wanton denial of the fundamental principles of representative government; senseless because it will have an effect exactly contrary to that intended by its movers and dangerous in that it will encourage and strengthen in these somewhat perilous days the vicious elements now active in our country which have no love of America and would gladly see our institutions overturned.

"To remedy the wrong done in so far as it can now be remedied we urge the Assembly to restore full privileges to the suspended members pending their contemplated trial and to proceed without delay with the hearing of such charges as may be made against them."